



Devoted to the interests of the various Fire Departments and Military Organizations throughout the State.

OUR TASK TO ENLIGHTEN.

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Chief Engineer Whitney's Report.

The report of Chief Engineer Whitney as published exclusively in the last issue of this paper, we consider the ablest and most perfect in detail, of any document of a similar nature emanating from that office, since the organization of the Fire Department. Aside from the statistical information which it contains and the presenting in a clear and readable shape, the position, and wants of the association of which he is the head; Mr. Whitney has laid before the firemen and the community a report so thoroughly impartial in its character, as to commend it to the careful perusal and attention of every citizen of this great metropolis, and entitle it as author to the respect and good feeling of every man in the ranks. The publication of a report of the character to which we are now referring, adds much to the position and dignity of the association sought to be benefited by it, and it becomes a source of pleasure and pride to know that the document which has called forth this article, has received the unanimous endorsement of the Fire Department, and that of the liberal minded men of the community.

After giving a resume of the engine houses, and style of the apparatus, and the names of their chief officers, the location, build, and capacity of cisterns, list of fires, alarms, and losses since last report, and a schedule of the entire property of the city vested in the Department, the Chief sets forth the actual expenditures for the organization for two months at \$232.10, being an average of \$116.05 per month, a circumstance unparalleled in the annals of any fire department; and every business man must know from the statement that such a state of affairs could only have been brought about by the strictest economy and the well directed abilities and managerial qualities of the Executive officer. It is true no department in the world can be sustained upon any such a sum as that which we have above mentioned; yet the Fire Department of San Francisco, has struggled along and maintained its efficiency under the most disagreeable, uncertain and adverse circumstances.

The condition of the houses of "Howard Co. No. 3," "Knickerbocker No. 5," "Monumental No. 6," "Pacific No. 8," "Vigilant No. 9," and "Lafayette Hook Ladder 2," is given concisely and to the point. All that is stated in Mr. Whitney's report relative to the necessities of those Companies is entirely correct, as all persons feeling the desire, may satisfy themselves by personal examination. A false economy may influence the Board of Supervisors to disregard the recommendations of Mr. Whitney touching the repairs required by the above named companies, for a time; but when the duty incumbent upon them to perform, can no longer be shirked and the city and county through their narrow mindedness is mulct in a sum three times greater than it should be for the same work, the recommendations of the Chief Engineer will relieve him from all responsibility in the matter and place it where it justly belongs.

The difficulties attending Tiger Engine Co. No. 14, are vividly set forth in the Chief's report. The members of that company, have labored under many hardships since their advent into the fire department, and it is high time they had a local habitation. It is useless for us to speak of their efficiency, it has been tested too often; they are organized to protect one of the largest and most combustible wards in the city; a ward, the people of which have paid more taxes than any other, and received less in return. The "Tigers" have always used their own apparatus; are doing so now, and have lately sent to the Atlantic States, at great expense to procure an engine of improved style and elegant finish. They require a house and lot suitably located and are entitled to it by every sense of right and justice. Months ago an appropriation was made to purchase a house and lot, but the amount has been unaccountably kept back. It should be paid over without delay; it is their own and should not be withheld from them.

The Chief recommends the purchase of engines for "Manhattan 7," "Volunteer 7," "Pacific 8," "Crescent 10," and "Tiger 14," and a new truck for "San Jose Hook and Ladder 3," all of which we cordially endorse. The engine of No. 2, should be immediately sold and the proceeds appropriated to the purchase of another and smaller engine, and outside efforts should not be allowed to interfere with its sale. The members of No. 7 are running an engine belonging to Captain Macdonald; a circumstance by no means creditable to the government of the city and county of San Francisco. As far as Captain M. is concerned we have often before expressed our opinion of his liberality towards the members of No. 7 and the people, but if it is like this, we cannot own to his liberality, the department would be much better disbanded. And on paper we will say, that in our opinion, all the apparatus now owned by the Fire Department, should be sold and the proceeds applied to the purchase of new and improved apparatus.

ed by companies should be turned over to the proper authorities at a fair cash valuation, for we do not believe it right, nor proper, in a department as small as ours, for half a dozen of the companies to own their own apparatus, and for a fancied or real slight, leave the city at the mercy of the flames by withdrawal from the organization. Companies change in persons, character and disposition, and the same high minded and honorable class of men, may not always, control the Fire Department of San Francisco.

Pacific 8, requires a new engine, if for no other reason, than that the people of the First Ward demands it. No. 8 is located in a district where there is an immense amount of valuable property located. The district is a large one, and is bounded by the Bay, Montgomery and Sacramento streets, for in the whole of that large area, No. 8 is the only engine situated in it. The apparatus now in use by the company, is insufficient for the demands made upon it, and as it can be readily disposed of, the recommendation of the chief respecting her, should be carried out, for the company is a most efficient one and has done excellent service.

The engine of No. 10, has been in service since the organization of the company, and although her members are prompt to respond to every call made upon them, and endeavor to get work out of her, yet she has become to be a regular old rattle trap, and is only fit for a relief engine. No. 10 has lately re-organized, and is as reliable as any company in the Department.

Tiger No. 14, is in the same position as No. 7, and requires a new engine, the one sent for by the company, should upon arrival be purchased by the city and county.

We have heretofore spoken of the requirements of Sansome Hook and Ladder Co. No. 3, and we are gratified our remarks in relation to them, have been so thoroughly sustained in the Chief's report. It is a disgrace to this city, that a company composed of such material as that of Sansome 3, should be deprived of the proper kind of apparatus, to fulfill their calling. The "Sansomes" have done service enough in the department to entitle them to every assistance from the authorities. For better than six years they have used the truck now in their possession; and if gentlemanly bearing, conformity to the laws of the department, active firemanhood, and a desire to perpetuate the good name of the organization, entitle a company to preference the "Sansomes" are in an eminent degree worthy of it, for they are a source of pride to the entire department.

Passing over the Chief's remarks respecting relief engines, hose carriages and hose; the latter having formed the subject of several articles in this journal before, we come to that portion regarding cisterns; which is as important as the apparatus. The Chief recommends the immediate construction of four cisterns, and the repairs of others as follows: "One at the corner of Folsom and Second streets," "One at the junction of Market and Mason streets," "St. Ann's Valley; one at corner of Clay and Mason streets; and one near North Beach, at the corner of Mason and Union streets; also that the top of the cistern located at the corner of Bush and Powell streets, being several feet below the established grade, should be built upon accordingly. That the localities mentioned are absolutely without protection from fire, is most true, and no delay whatever should occur in advertising for proposals for their construction. In the vicinity of Folsom and Second streets, a large number of private residences have been erected. The nearest water to them in the event of a fire is at least fifty hundred feet distant, which would require a line of six engines to reach it, nearly one half of the effective force of the department.

In St. Ann's Valley there are, 167 dwellings, and the nearest water to them is twenty-three hundred feet distant; requiring very nearly the whole department to form one line, and one only—forcing but one stream on a fire. The nearest water to the corner of Clay and Mason streets, is one thousand feet distant, and Mason and Union, the same distance. Thus, it will be seen at a glance how unprotected those localities are; how immediate the necessity of constructing cisterns, and how well timed are the recommendations of the Chief Engineer respecting them.

The Chief concurs in the opinion expressed by us sometime since, that the cisterns heretofore constructed were not of the capacity set forth, and that means the city has been defrauded of large amounts, and the department compelled to bear the odium attached to it. Every cistern built should be measured and gauged, and not a gallon of water paid for, more than the actual capacity, and the measurement sworn to, and the durability of the cistern tested, before one dollar of the cost was liquidated.

The bad faith exercised towards Major Cowan, who had the contract for filling the cisterns, has deprived the Chief Engineer of the facilities at the command of that gentleman for supplying the city with water for fire purposes. And while it is a subject of regret that such a state of affairs exist, Major C. cannot be censured for not further supplying the city, as his contract with the latter just expired, did not yield him one dollar, \$13,000 being now due him. The Board of Supervisors must without further bawling around the bush, make some arrangements to keep the cisterns filled with water. It is an outrage upon the Fire Department to compel its officers and individual members, after every fire to go around with subscription papers to collect amounts sufficient to replace the water used by them in saving other people's property; and none but the present Board of Supervisors would have the unblushing effrontery to require or expect such a thing.

Of the offer alluded to by Mr. Whitney, as emanating from Mr. Knapp, to supply water for the

department, we have heretofore spoken favorably, and the suggestions of the Chief in connection with it, are excellent.

The Chief Engineer recommends the establishment of a Corporation Yard. We agree with him that it is necessary. Trifling as the expense now is to sustain the department, the Corporation Yard would be found to be a still further saving to the city. Repairs could be made with more dispatch, and with better satisfaction to the department. The property of the organization could be better taken care of, and a much better system inaugurated.

We have written and said so much about the City Hall Bell and Belfry that we are at a loss to find words to speak of a place, which is so entirely contrary to what its name purports. Instead of being a belfry for the protection of the city, it is nothing more nor less than a "coop," worse than pet chickens are kept in; and some windy night will blow off, depriving the occupant of life. We regret the Chief Engineer did not recommend the construction of a tower and belfry at the corner of California and Powell streets, of such a height that the lookout could see the entire city, and so that the tones of the bell might be heard in every locality.

We are glad that Chief Engineer Whitney, has in the concluding portion of his masterly report, alluded to the unwarranted conduct of the San Francisco Delegation in the Legislature, towards the firemen of this city. We were in Sacramento during the entire session of the Committee deputed by the Board of Delegates to secure the passage of beneficial amendments to the law governing the department, and for the purpose of procuring an appropriation equal to its actual necessities; and are therefore pretty well posted upon the subject now spoken of.

The strictures of Mr. Whitney are not one-half as severe, as they are merited. For twelve days, the Committee appointed by the Board of Delegates, was kept dancing attendance on the San Francisco Delegation, and all to no purpose; until finally, disgusted and disheartened at the treatment received, they sought the aid of strangers, and were partially successful in their suit; the San Francisco Delegation throwing every obstacle in the way of the Committee's attaining the object sought for. The great difficulty arose from the fact that but one of the Delegation—and he not altogether favorable to the cause—was acquainted with the first rudiments of the wants, management, and government of a Fire Department, and for the purpose of showing one of the ridiculous positions taken by them we give the following incident. At a meeting of the San Francisco Delegation in the Legislature, and the Committee from the Board of Delegates, the subject of managing the department economically, came up. One of the San Francisco Delegation recommended a "contract" of the department, by disbanding the companies requiring new apparatus. Mr. Jones replied that such a thing could not be as no company could be disbanded unless its members violated some law of the department. "Oh! well then," replied another of the Legislators, "you can amend them." "No," said Mr. Whitney, "the same rule applies to this case as in the former. But now we have it, said another Legislator, "you can amend them." "By no means," said Mr. Buckingham, you cannot excuse a man from duty for such a cause, and allow him the same privileges as an active fireman. All their positions being so vulnerable, no further steps were taken at that meeting to reduce the expenses of the department.

We did expect however, a living show for the department, for the coming year at any rate, knowing full well, that so soon as the various companies were placed upon a proper basis, the expenses of the department would be very light, exclusive of salaries. Facts upon facts; tables of figures; comparisons between the past, present, and future; the benefits derived from the firemen; the anxiety of the mass of the people to be liberal with them; the debts already incurred and accruing against the city on account of the department, and the fear that the organization would be compelled to break up, if proper provision was not made for it; were all portrayed in the clearest shape, to the members of the San Francisco Delegation in the Legislature, but all of no avail. For notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen, the will of the people, and every consideration of safety for and protection to the city, the San Francisco Delegation caused an appropriation to be made, which will not meet one-half the actual necessities of the department, but on the contrary will throw it farther in the back-ground than it was before. \$30,000 is the sum named in the amendments to the Consolidation Bill for the support and maintenance of the Fire Department, and the liquidation of all the expenses attendant upon the extinguishment of fires; including the salaries of officers, which amounts to \$16,400; leaving a balance of \$13,600 for the construction and filling of cisterns, repair of apparatus and hose, light and water for the engine houses, Stewards fees, &c.

There is already due, for expenses incurred in supporting the department the sum of \$35,000, of the amount \$12,000 is due Major Cowan for filling cisterns, and \$23,000 owing to the stewards for taking care of the apparatus. Hon. W. W. Shepard, a member of Assembly from this city and county, gave his solemn promise to Chief Engineer Whitney, and Franklin L. Jones Esq. of the Committee from the Board of Delegates, in our presence that before the sessions closed he would introduce a bill, and endeavor to secure its passage to liquidate the already incurred debt of the department. Why Mr. Shepard made such a promise and did not fulfill it, he can probably explain to the Fire Department better than we can. Only one bill has been introduced to liquidate the debt of the department, and it is a bill to create a new department, and not to liquidate the debt of the old one.

The firemen did expect some consideration from Hon. Eugene L. Sullivan—one of the trustees and acting treasurer of the Charitable Fund, who occupied a seat in the Senate of the just closing Legislature—but instead of that individual sympathizing with a body of men who had conferred honors upon him, second only in importance to their chief officers, he turned traitor to their interests—turning his back upon their appeals, assisting to their injury. Instead of battling for their property, fighting for their rights, and sacrificing his own feelings, for the sake of making them some return for their courtesy to him, he calmly looked on and saw them deprived of every attribute, which would tend to make them successful—except their own will and indomitable energy.

Of the Hon. Cyrus Palmer, of the House of Assembly, whose boast was that his name was on the active roll of a fire company in this city (No. 7), we say, in all the sincerity of truth, "God preserve the Department from all such active members!" Affording no assistance, advancing not a single suggestion which would tend to enhance the value of the organization of which he was an active member—not sympathizing with his brethren in the ranks, not obeying the mandates of the highest authority in the Department, of which he was an active member—the Board of Delegates—although the vital interests of his own company were at stake, and his name enrolled among its active members, refusing to listen to the voice of the people, as expressed through the columns of the entire press of the city—he, too, turned aside from his duty to the Department of which he was an active member, and the people who had conferred honor upon him.

The firemen of this city have but little idea of the difficulties which surrounded, and the obstacles which were thrown, in the way of their committee which went to Sacramento, by those who had every reason to give them their friendship and influence. "In my opinion, the tardiness generally exhibited with regard to supplying the wants of a Fire Department, arises from a confidence and belief that, from the enthusiasm and pride of its members, they will not allow themselves to be broken up; but the time may and perhaps will come, when they will determine that forbearance not only ceases to be a virtue, but absolutely becomes a crime; and when it is too late to be remedied, some may find itself deprived of one of the main pillars of its protection.

"In speaking thus plainly, I am impelled by a simple sense of duty, imposed upon me by a solemn oath, to faithfully fulfill and discharge the duties of the office which I now fill; for, from my statements herein made, I may be offended, I have no excuse to offer, but the determination of endeavoring to carry into effect the obligations of my office, and to perform the duties of my office, is my only motive."

In the above the Chief Engineer but echoes the sentiments, which on more than one occasion have been expressed in this paper. The firemen have no desire to threaten; do not wish to intimidate or create any unnecessary alarm in the minds of the people; but they have arrived at the conclusion that something more is required to sustain their organization than favorable notices of confagurations well and promptly extinguished. It cannot—and if it is, it should not be expected that the zeal of the firemen is of such a character that they will not only perform the work for which they were organized, but liquidate all the expenses of it. Not the slightest benefit would inure to them for so doing. It must not be supposed for an instant that the \$232.10 expended in support of the Department for the past two months was all that was expended—by no manner of means. The expenses of each company amounted to at least \$150 per month—making a total, for two months, for the entire Department, of \$6,000—being actual and necessary outlay for the welfare of the organization.

What glory? what honor would it be to the members of the organization to perform a voluntary duty, and be compelled to pay for it themselves? None whatever; and if the people of San Francisco do desire to perpetuate the organization, they must relieve its members of the great pecuniary burden which now rests upon them; otherwise, it will be entirely disbanded, and the city no better off than it was on the 4th of May 1851. Had it not been for the Fire Department, San Francisco would have experienced twenty such confagurations since that time; and had it not been for the entreaties of the conservative men of the department, who influencing the disaffected with the belief that the Legislature of 1857, would give them all the relief required, the department would have been dissolved when the Consolidation Bill went into effect in July last; and notwithstanding all that, the firemen are no better off now than they were then.

The prosperity or dissolution of the department can be very easily settled. The people have only to say, "we will give the firemen all the support they require to keep their interest inviolate. They have only to say to dissolve it: we will not accede to their demands, and if that should be the response, MAY GOD DEFEND THE RIGHT!"

Honor to the San Francisco Fire Department. The following is from the Town Talk of Sunday last, and is one of the many beautiful compliments paid to the San Francisco Firemen by that paper:

To praise the firemen of San Francisco, whose name is every city of the Union is a synonym for bravery, efficiency in the execution of duty, and generosity; seems indeed like the glowing retailed tale, a work of imagination. It is even gratefully received, even by him whose action is most dignified, and where it is so thoroughly deserved, we should not be signally in its expression. Especially at the present season, we are reminded, the obligations one city is under to her firemen, calling, as does the recurrence of the anniversary of our great fire, our obligations in the future.

of the organization, and the security which has taken the place of the state of apprehension which preceded their attaining the strength and efficiency that are now their characteristics. It is not the multiplication of fire-proof buildings in our midst that are to attribute our exemption in latter years from those confagurations which marked our city as a spot for the revels of the destroying angel in our earlier history, so much as to the unexampled esprit du corps which prevails over the fire department, their energy and industry, and the excellent apparatus with which they have provided themselves. The great fires in New York and other larger cities at the East, proved conclusively that fire-proof buildings are not invariably a protection against the ravages of fire, and the promptness and rapidity with which fire, in the most combustible neighborhoods, have been subdued by the fire department here add to the convincing testimony that a city's security against fire lies mainly in the energy and activity of her firemen.

We witnessed the fire yesterday afternoon from an elevation, at its commencement, and the appearance it presented before the engines were brought to bear upon it was certainly somewhat of an alarming character. Yet while the flames shot heavenward, filling the air with a whitish-yellow smoke, the jets of water, as one by one they were apparent, and first turning into vapor without lessening the flame, then drenching its color till the air was black with the gases generated by the contending elements, gave hope that the danger would soon be over—a hope that grew into certainty with such rapidity that in less than half an hour from the time the bell of the City Hall gave signal of the danger those jets of water were the only sign by which one might note, from the position we occupied, the place where the fire had been; not even a cloud of smoke mingling with them or darkening the air above the ruins. And in one hour the excitement was over; the citizens had returned to their vocations; and thus peacefully and quietly the firemen added another to their record of bloodless victories—another to the list of obligations due to them from a grateful community.

Not alone for their services at the posts where duty demanded their action do our Fire Department deserve praise and highest honor. For their patience under the trials that have beset them during the past year, their perseverance in the performance of duty with the meagre aid allowed them by the authorities, for their abstinence from strife and contention which have thrown a shadow on the fair fame of firemen in other cities, but which with them extends only to a generous emulation to excel in the performance of duty; for the noble spirit of brotherhood which places them side by side with the benevolent associations of the day, and gains them new laurels for the liberality and charity manifested by them whenever appeal is made to their sympathies, do they merit honorable mention and highest commendation. And that they may continue to deserve the high repute they have sustained during our city's history, that they may maintain the position that unanimously accorded them at the head of similar organizations throughout the length and breadth of the Union, is our sincere conviction as it is our pride and boast. And we say not the least, we declare against its great score of honor, and the title, never having been disputed, the title never to be lost—Honor to the Fire Department of San Francisco.

Fireman's Address.

Delivered by Mr. W. M. Fleming, at the American Theatre, on the occasion of the Benefit in aid of the Fire Department, Friday, April 29th, 1857.

Dear to the patriot's heart his country's fame,
To know the world bears witness to her claim
On the proud list of nations, still to be
First of the brave, the generous, the free!

How glows his bosom with delightful pride,
As on the waves he sees her navy ride;
Career'ing glorious in the dashing breeze,
Her starry flag, bright darling of the seas;
Or, in the midnight triumphs of the mind,
He turns to view, in fadless glory shined,
Her Washington and Franklin's names appear,
And kindred spirits, whom all earth revere.

But while his trobbing bosom kindling high,
Pictures her fame to fancy's glowing eye,
What star is that, which, shining fair and bright,
Around it freedom, courage, valor twine,
And heaven-born mercy, minsters divine,
His soul expands—he feels he owns the flame!
It is the emblem of her Fireman's fame!

Dear to the heart of woman
Is the theme of manly worth—
It is her life's sweet dream;
And has this tongue but power to reveal
All that this heart on such a theme can feel,
Then would the glory of the Fireman's name
Be sung in numbers worthy of its fame!

But, though I fail, still may my muse not fear;
For it, at least, is heartfelt and sincere!

Fireman of San Francisco!

Prouder name
Than any Europe's
Haughty despots claim!
The free inheritors
Of freedom's soil—
No tyrants' nor commands
Their glorious toll;
Nor will they yield it
For the hireling's gold—
Not theirs the hearts
That can be bought and sold!
No; they but move at nature's holy call
Religion, courage, virtue, love
All the qualities which generous hearts hold dear

Impel the fireman to his bold career
Blow them, ye who calmly sleep—
Whilst they, laborious, ceaseless vigil keep
Blow them, the mother, who from perils will
Safe to her bosom clasp her rescued flame
Blow them, the poor, who when fierce flames appear
See them rush on to save their little all;
Blow them, the rich, who know what they endure,
For 'tis their toll that keeps your wealth secure;
Blow them, the world, who see the world
For we must all confess
That they deserve the name
Which we have given them
And live to bless them

Letter from Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO, April 7, 1857.

EDITOR JOURNAL.—I arrived here yesterday morning, en route for the northern counties, and took rooms at the Union—a hotel widely known in reputation to the traveling public. After having refreshed myself with a few hours' sleep, I "marched forth," and had the pleasure of being introduced to a number of "ramps of the Department." I visited the different houses and companies, and was much pleased with my reception. Mr. Lee, first deputy of Knickerbocker No. 3, accompanying me, gave me an invitation to the "christening" of their new house, which has just been completed. It is constructed in magnificent style, and will compare with any in the Bay City.

In the afternoon, however, it was ascertained that the foreman, J. C. Keenan, Esq., would arrive in the boat, from a tour to the Eastern States, when all the preliminary arrangements were made for his reception. At the hour of his arrival, he was received by a full attendance of his company, with an excellent band of music, marching through the main streets to their new engine house, where a general reunion took place. "Wine, wit, and sentiment" flowed freely, and among the numerous toasts was, "The Fire Department of San Francisco," offered by Mr. Keenan, to which, Coroner Kent, of Knickerbocker No. 5, of your city, appropriately responded.

Mrs. Harvey, with her unsurpassable and usual generosity to the fireman of the State, gave a benefit to Neptune Hose Company No. 1 last evening, the net proceeds of which yielded the company about \$200. Tonight she appears in the character of "Camille," which alone is enough to insure a full house.

On Monday a new paper makes its debut, the name I have not yet learned. It is to be published by Mr. Parker H. French, is to have control of the editorial department, and Jas. B. McQuillan the mechanical portion.

I learn that two new engines have been ordered for the city for No. 8, from Rodgers' make of Baltimore, to be the same build of "Big Six" in San Francisco. The other for No. 1, a first class engine, ordered from Agnew, Philadelphia, and is expected shortly to arrive.

I regret to learn that C. J. Thorbeck Esq. (member of Assembly) Secretary of the California Stage Company, which station he has filled for the last three years, is about to resign his position.

Hon. D. C. Brodhead arrived in town by last night's boat, and was cordially received by his many friends. The Legislature winds up to-day. I leave to-morrow for Marysville. Truly yours, D. G. W.

FIREMAN'S BURIAL GROUND FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The following is from the New York Leader, of March 21st, a paper which takes great interest in all Fire Department matters, and whose opinions we entertain the highest respect for. We hope by the time the next mail leaves here we will be enabled to publish a subscription list of at least \$1,000 towards the Fireman's Cemetery of this city.

We find in the San Francisco Fireman's Journal some remarks on the subject of a proposed burial ground for firemen, near that city. It seems that, rapidly as the City of the Golden Gate has advanced in wealth and importance, it has not yet provided a burial place for its brave defenders against its great score of honor, and the title, never having been disputed, the title never to be lost—Honor to the Fire Department of San Francisco.

Dear to the patriot's heart his country's fame,
To know the world bears witness to her claim
On the proud list of nations, still to be
First of the brave, the generous, the free!

Olds and Ends.

Lizzie is a bright and cheerful little girl of ten years, full of life and spirit, and making people pleasant with her sparkle. The other night at the tea-table she was particularly vivacious, and was chatting and laughing with great glee, when her mother said to her rather gravely:

"Lizzie, you are behaving in a very strange manner; have you lost all your senses?"

"Yes, mamma," said Lizzie in great glee, "I have lost my senses."

The Spaniards account by a quaint legend for the constant political disturbances in their country. When St. Iago, their patron, went to Heaven, he interceded for blessings on Spain. Brave men, handsome women, a fertile soil, and a fine climate were readily granted. The saint then asked for a good government.

"No, no!" was the reply, "if that were conceded as well, the angels would quit Heaven to live in Spain."

The sentimental lady who sat up all night on the 28th of February to see the Spring come in, went to bed about four o'clock in the morning with a head-ache and a sore throat—the effect of her post-natal regard for the season. Apollo has been writing a "Sonnet to the first violet," which he proposes to introduce as soon as he sees the line published about winter's lingering in the lap of spring.

Two Christians in the street, last Monday morning. Both were parents. As was most natural the conversation turned upon the services of the preceding day. The first spoke opened the subject by saying:

"We had a sermon from our minister last night, on the religious instruction of children. Why didn't you come and hear it?"

"Because," said the other, "I was at home doing it."

A green member of the Nebraska Legislature, when the election of the Assistant Clerk came up called out.—Mr. Speaker, I move we vote, *aye*—*ayes*. The whole house burst into a roar, and not knowing what it meant, green asked his right hand neighbor if it was not his order, adding that he didn't know anything about the *ayes* and *no* rules!

The question at a tea party, turning upon the propriety of one's mixing up cakes with a pinch of snuff in the fingers, fearing some might be scattered in the dough, a lady remarked that she had seen her mother was cakes with a pinch of snuff in her fingers, and not scatter a bit.

"Why, Billy," replied the offended lady, "how do you do it?"

"Well, mother, I don't know but I do," innocently replied the arching: "I don't know but you did scatter it at the arrival."

At the arrival of an emigrant, some years ago, when the North Carolina land at the Battery, an Irishman, hearing the gun fired at sunset, inquired of one of the sailors what that was.

"What's that?" "Why, that's sunset," was the contemptuous reply.

"Sunset!" exclaimed Paddy, with distended eyes, "sunset! How slowly of Moses! and does the sun go down in this country with such a clap as that?"

The steamer Isaac Newton, of the Albany line, the largest in the world, ran ashore in a fog, before Cape Cod, on Wednesday morning, and after her freight and passengers had been taken off by the Hendrick Hudson, sank below her cabins. Inefficient attempts were made by the New World and French Steamers to lower her to the bottom, but the doctor's orders that he was, was a large loss, and worth \$200,000.

The Hard Shell Baptists still hate an "educated minister," and Jack Cade, would have hanged all clergies that read and write. One of them recently being called to preach in Carroll county, Mo., rose and thus began:

"My brethren, I am going to preach you a very plain sermon to-day, a sermon which even women can understand. You will find my text in the 5 verse of the two-eyed chapter of one-eyed John." It was some time before it was perceived that he meant "John," chapter 5.

The Fireman's Journal

AND MILITARY GAZETTE.

MARCUS D. BORUCK, Editor.

SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 9, 1857.

to the Members of the San Francisco Fire Department.

We, the undersigned, a special Monumental and Cemetery Committee appointed by the Board of Delegates of this Fire Department, inform that the book of subscription is now open at the office of H. A. COBB, Nos. 100 and 102 Montgomery street, for the purpose of receiving donations for erecting the FIREMAN'S MONUMENT and Cemetery, and for the purpose of erecting a permanent MONUMENT to our deceased brethren who perished in discharging their duty as firemen.

H. A. COBB, Chairman.

W. H. SILVERTHORN, Secretary.

E. P. BUCKLEY.

Notice.

Mr. DANIEL G. WALDRON is now traveling

through the State as Agent and Correspondent of

this paper, and is duly authorized to transact all

business connected with it. We hope our friends

will extend him every assistance and attention at

their command.

Notice to Mail Subscribers of MARYSVILLE.

We shall hereafter send our list of mail subscribers

through Wm. Fargo & Co., Express to our

Agents A. Randall & Co., where they will receive

them one day sooner than heretofore.

Reduction of Salaries.

The amendment of Mr. Sullivan of the Senate,

to the Consolidation Bill, reducing the salaries of

the present Secretary of the Board of Delegates, Chief

Clerk and bell ringers, is in our opinion an unjust

and unfair measure against the Fire Department.

Not that the officers of the Fire Department are

less amenable to the dictates of economy, but from

the fact that the persons above alluded to were

elected for a specific term, at a certain salary,

and should have been allowed to enjoy it, until the

expiration of the term; particularly when the Board

of Delegates reduced the expenses of the Department

of their own free will and accord. The salaries

of the Chief Clerk have been reduced to \$1500

each per annum, and those of the Bell ringers to

\$1200 per annum. When it is taken into consideration

that those who receive salaries are paid in specie,

which varies in value, it will be seen at a glance

that the amounts above named are entirely too

small for the duty to be performed. Under the

reduction, valuing the salaries at scrip, price, that

of the Secretary of the Department and Chief Clerk

amounts to the enormous sum of \$975 per annum,

and those of the Bell ringers \$780 per annum,

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The Fire Department.

The promptitude which has marked the work-

ings of the Fire Department during the past few

days demands more than a passing notice from us.

The usual May fires (to make a bull of it) com-

mented with that in Milton Place, two weeks ago,

and the masterly manner in which it was extin-

guished reflected the high character of the orga-

nization. At this fire, the building, a frame,

was partially destroyed, and the fire was local-

ly and easily controlled by light frame build-

ings. Columbian Engine Company No. 11 had the

first stream of water on the above fire, and Volun-

teer No. 1 the second. The stream of No. 1

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Another Insult to the Fire Department.

On Wednesday last, the Chief Engineer of the

Fire Department, sent in his quarterly report in

accordance with the law, to the Board of Super-

visors; giving them all the information possible in

relation to the organization, and recommending a

variety of improvements which might be made.

Instead of receiving the report of Mr. Whitely, the

ignorant Supervisor thrust it on him, and read-

ing a single line of it, not caring to wish to

know any of its contents.

Immediately after showing the Chief Engineer

of the Fire Department, the Chief Engineer of the

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